

Application No.: 10/650,552
Art Unit 2178

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). ~~A method to distribute a document to one or more recipients by means of a network, the document comprising a cover sheet including a cover sheet information, each recipient having a recipient network address, the method comprising, by an originator having an originator network address:~~

~~(a) providing a document distribution job information in the cover sheet information, the document distribution job information including an originator information including the originator network address and, for each recipient, a recipient information including the recipient network address; and~~

~~(b) providing the document to an included document distributing apparatus~~

A method (100a [400], 100b [500], 100c [600]) to distribute a document (9) to one or more recipients (RECIPIENT 1 - RECIPIENT N), the method comprising:

by an originator (1):

providing (step 403) a document (9) to an included document distributing apparatus (10), the document comprising a cover sheet (200) including a cover sheet information (201), the cover sheet information including (step 402) a document distribution job information (290):

by the document distributing apparatus:

receiving (step 501) the document from the originator;

scanning (step 503) the document to provide the document distribution job information (290):

distributing (step 505) the document based on the document distribution job information (290) to the one or more recipients by means of an included communication network (20); and

by at least one recipient of the one or more recipients:

receiving (step 601) the document from the document distributing apparatus;

and

subsequent to receiving the document, returning (step 604) the document to the document distributing apparatus .

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2 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1 including, by the originator, sending the document to the document distributing apparatus by means of an included network~~
The method of claim 1 where the originator provides (step 402) the document to the document distributing apparatus by means of the communication network .

Claim 3 (Canceled).

4 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1, the document distribution job information providing step (a) including providing a message information~~
The method of claim 1, the document distribution job information (290) including a message (241) .

5 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 1, the document distribution job information providing step (a) including providing a routing information~~
The method of claim 1, the document distribution job information (290) including a routing information (251) .

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

8 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 7 including, by the recipient, modifying the cover sheet information~~
The method of claim 1 including, by at least one recipient of the one or more recipients, modifying (step 603) the cover sheet information (201) .

9 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 8 including, by the recipient, marking the cover sheet~~
The method of claim 8 where the at least one recipient modifies (step 603) the cover sheet information by marking the cover sheet with a marking instrument .

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).

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12 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 7, the document comprising one or more document sheets including a document sheet information, the method including, by the recipient, modifying any of the cover sheet information and the document sheet information~~

The method of claim 1, the document comprising one or more document sheets (300) including a document sheet information (301) the method including, by at least one recipient of the one or more recipients, modifying (step 603) the document sheet information .

13 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 12 including, by the recipient, marking any of the cover sheet and the one or more document sheets~~

The method of claim 12 where the at least one recipient modifies (step 603) the document sheet information by marking at least one document sheet with a marking instrument .

Claims 14-17 (Canceled).

18 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 7 including, by the document distributing apparatus:~~

~~(h) receiving the document from the recipient; and~~

~~(i) determining when the document distribution job is complete~~

The method of claim 1 including, by the document distributing apparatus, determining (step 504) when the current document distribution job is complete, such determining when the current document distribution job is complete including determining when all recipients of the one or more recipients have returned (step 604) the document to the document distributing apparatus .

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19 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 18 including, by the document distributing apparatus, when it is determined that the document distribution job is complete, returning the document to the originator~~

The method of claim 18 including, by the document distributing apparatus, when it is determined (step 504) that the current document distribution job is complete, returning (step 510) the document to the originator .

Claim 20 (Canceled).

21 (Currently amended). ~~The method of claim 18 including, by the document distributing apparatus, when it is determined that the document distribution job is not complete, distributing the document to one or more recipients based on the document distribution job information~~

The method of claim 18 including, by the document distributing apparatus, when it is determined (step 504) that the current document distribution job is not complete, continuing (step 505) to distribute the document .

Claims 22-51 (Canceled).

Now hereinbelow there are presented twelve (12) new claims numbered 52-63:

52 (New). The method of claim 1 where at least one document that is returned (step 604) to the document distributing apparatus contains cover sheet information (201) that has been modified (step 603) by at least one recipient of the one or more recipients.

53 (New). The method of claim 1 where the document comprises one or more document sheets (300) including a document sheet information (301) and at least one document that is returned (step 604) to the document distributing apparatus (10) contains document sheet information that has been modified (step 603) by at least one recipient of the one or more recipients.

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54 (New). The method of claim 21 where the document that is returned (step 510) to the originator contains cover sheet information (201) that has been modified (step 603) by at least one recipient of the one or more recipients.

55 (New). The method of claim 21 where the document comprises one or more document sheets (300) including a document sheet information (301) and the document that is returned (step 510) to the originator contains document sheet information that has been modified (step 603) by at least one recipient of the one or more recipients.

56 (New). The method of claim 21, such document distributing apparatus continuing (step 505) to distribute the document including continuing to distribute the document to the remaining recipient or recipients of the one or more recipients.

57 (New). A method (100a [400], 100b [500], 100c [600]) to distribute a document (9) to one or more recipients (RECIPIENT 1 - RECIPIENT N) comprising, by a document distributing apparatus (10):

receiving (step 501) the document, the document comprising a document distribution job information (290);

scanning (step 503) the document to provide the document distribution job information (290);

distributing (steps 505) the document based on the document distribution job information (290) to one or more recipients; and

subsequent to distributing the document, receiving (step 502) the document as such document is returned (step 604) from at least one recipient of the one or more recipients.

58 (New). The method of claim 57 where the document is received (step 501) from an originator (1) by means of an included communication network (20).

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59 (New). The method of claim 57 where the document that is received (step 502) as being returned (step 604) from the at least one recipient includes information (201, 301) that has been modified (step 603) by the at least one recipient.

60 (New). The method of claim 57 including determining (step 504) when the current document distribution job is complete, such determining when the current document distribution job is complete including determining when the document has been received (step 502) from all recipients of the one or more recipients.

61 (New). The method of claim 60 including, when it is determined (step 504) that the current document distribution job is complete, returning (step 510) the document to an originator (1).

62 (New). The method of claim 60 including, when it is determined (step 504) that the current document distribution job is not complete, continuing (step 505) to distribute the document.

63 (New). The method of claim 62, including continuing to distribute the document to the remaining recipient or recipients of the one or more recipients.